

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /090 W

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P R 181930Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2890

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5168

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: DETERIORATING SITUATION IN CORDOBA

1. SUMMARY. PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRI HAS CONFERRED WITH GOVERNOR AND VICE GOVERNOR OF PROVINCE OF CORDOBA ON DETERIORATING SITUATION THERE. APPARENTLY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL AT LEAST TEMPORARILY HOLD OFF ON INTERVENING PROVINCE.

2. IN VIEW OF OUTBREAKS OF FIGHTING IN CORDOBA BETWEEN ORTHODOX PERONISTS AND LEFTIST FOLLOWERS OF AGUSTIN TOSCO AND ATILIO LOPEZ, PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT RAUL LASTIRI YESTERDAY CALLED GOVERNOR OBREGON CANO AND VICE GOVERNOR ATILIO LOPEZ TO BUENOS AIRES TO CONFER ON SITUATION. PREVIOUS DAY HE HAD SENT ARMY CINC CARCAGNO TO CORDOBA TO CONFER WITH MILITARY COMMANDERS THERE.

3. WHILE RESULTS OF LASTIRI-OBREGON CANO MEETING HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, INFORMED SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT LASTIRI AGREED TO HOLD OFF ON INTERVENING PROVINCE IN ORDER TO GIVE GOVERNOR OBREGON CANO OPPORTUNITY TO "PACIFY SITUATION."

4. GIVEN EXTREME DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS IN CORDOBA AND TOSCO'S
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APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE

HOW FEDERAL INTERVENTION CAN BE AVOIDED. COMPLICATING FACTOR IN THIS WILL BE THAT GIVEN ANIMOSITIES BETWEEN PROVINCE AND FEDERAL CAPITAL, ANY INTERVENTION ON PART OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO BE OPPOSED BY MAJORITY OF CORDOBESSES - EVEN THOSE WHO BY INSTINCT AND POLITICAL PERSUASION OPPOSE EXTREME LEFTIST POSITION OF TOSCO AND OTILIA LOPEZ.
KREBS

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